

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 8, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 7, 9 and 13 are hereby amended, claims 2-6, 17 and 18 are cancelled and claims 19 and 20 are newly added. Accordingly, claims 1, 7-16, 19 and 20 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-9 and 13-16 are allowed and that claims 10-12 include allowable subject matter. Claims 7, 9 and 13 have been amended only to correct minor informalities. The amended claims contain no new matter nor change the scope of the claims.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,678 to *Kim et al.* (hereinafter "*Kim*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As stated above claims 2-5, 17 and 18 have been canceled and thus the rejection is now moot.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." The Applicants respectfully submit that *Kim* does not teach every element recited in claim 1 and therefore cannot anticipate these claims. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite an air conditioner which includes, among other features, "a lower air guide and an upper air guide configured for covering an indoor fan, to guide air intaken from the indoor space." *Kim* fails to disclose this feature.

For at least the aforementioned reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over *Kim*, and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kim* in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,717,508 to *Loveley et al.* (hereinafter "*Loveley*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As stated above claim 6 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot.

The application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments